UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

National Centre for the Production and Distribution of Selected Seeds (LAO/77/011)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	April 1979
Starting date of project activities:	April 1979
Planned completion date:	February 1982
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Hydraulics
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 309 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. It is the Government's declared objective, as stated in its Development Plan, to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and animal feed. To this end a National Seed Plan has been formulated which seeks to rapidly increase production of locally adapted varieties of improved seed including rice, maize, soyabean, groundnut, sorghum and vegetables.

2. The activities of this project will reinforce those under way through an agricultural rehabilitation and development programme in Vientiane Province which is supported by the International Development Association (IDA) and the UNDP/FAO-assisted project, Assistance in Rice Production and Extension Work (LAO/77/009).1/ It will also absorb the activities previously planned for a seperate UNDP/FAO assisted project, Production of Animal Feedstuff (LAO/76/007)2/.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

1/ DP/PROJECTS/1876.

2/ DP/PROJECTS/1433.

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3. The initial project proposal emanated from a mission that visited the Lao People's Democratic Republic in May 1978 within the framework of the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objectives of the project are: (a) the creation and development of a National Centre for Seed Multiplication at Na Phok (600 hectacres) for rice and substitution crops; (b) the development of a state farm at Veune Khan (3,000 hectacres) for the production of feed grain to satisfy the immediate needs of two animal feed factories; and (c) the training of technical personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture and provincial agricultural services in the techniques of seed and feed-grain production to ensure supplies of improved seed to co-operatives and farming communities.

III. Inputs

5. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency: the services of experts and specialists in the fields of seed production, agricultural machinery, construction management and feed-grain production, as well as of consultants; fellowships in seed production and technology, and in-service training; project vehicles, farm machinery and spare parts , audio-visual training material, and office equipment.

6. To carry out the activities for which assistance is approved the Government will provide: qualified professional and supporting staff; housing; buildings; water services; land-clearing work; local construction materials for the Centre and agricultural equipment.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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International Personnel	590 100
Fellowships	136 600
Equipment	569 100
Miscellaneous	13 500
	1 309 300

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $777,800 in kind.

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